GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:706
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2001
LAWS RELATED TO CHILD LABOUR
AKHILESH SINGH

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to amend the laws related to child labour in order to check the atrocities like victimisation, exploitation and murder of child labourers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of child labourers employed in carpet industries of Bhadohi and fire work industries of Shivkashi in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) the action proposed by the Government for liberation of these labourers expeditiously?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a) & (b): The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act,1986 prohibits employment of children in occupations and processes listed in Schedule to the Act and regulates it in all other employments. Additions to the schedule are made on the advice of the Technical Advisory Committee constituted under the Act. The issue regarding amendment of the Child Labour Act, 1986 is an ongoing process and has been discussed in several fora including the State Labour Ministers` Conference held in July, 1997. Important suggestions made in the conference to make the Act more stringent include

(a) making the offence a cognizable one;

(b) making the penalties more stringent and deterrent; and

(c) the responsibility as to the proof of age of a child being made that of the employer. Action has already been initiated in this regard.

(c): Authentic information on child labour in the country is generated by the decennial census. According to the 1991 census, the number of working children in India is 11.28 million. Industry wise figures of number of working children are not maintained.

(d): Government has taken a series of steps to address the problem of child labour in the country. A National Policy on Child Labour was announced by the Government in 1987 which envisages strict enforcement of child labour related laws, convergence of services for the benefit of parents of child labour in order to improve their economic conditions and launching of projects in areas of high concentration of child labour. Apart from legal measures, Government has taken steps for withdrawal and rehabilitation of child labour working in hazardous occupations through the scheme of National Child Labour Projects and the Scheme of Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations. Awareness Generation activities are also being taken up by the concerned project societies at the district level.